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was proved only lately, when a controversy that had lasted for nearly half a century was settled in a friendly way; on that occasion it was also the American Government which invited the countries concerned, through its worthy Secretary of State, the eminent lawyer and statesman, Charles Evans Hughes.

Therefore the Government of Guatemala enters this conference with a keen desire to promote neighborly good feeling, pledging itself to co-operate to the utmost of its ability in pursuit of the results sought to be attained.

I feel that it is most appropriate, also, to add my government's high appreciation of the courtesy and disinterested thoughtfulness of the Government of the United States of America, due to whose courteous invitation we are assembled here today. I desire to avail myself of the opportunity to express to the very distinguished members of the Governing Board of the Pan American Union and its most capable Director General our most sincere gratitude for having placed at the disposal of the conference the palace of that important institution in which to hold our deliberations.

EL SALVADOR

Remarks of Senor Dr. Don Francisco Martinez Suarez, Chief of the Salvadoran Delegation

Your Excellency the Secretary of State, Your Excellencies the Delegates:

The Government of El Salvador, as also those of the other Central American States, has eagerly welcomed the cordial invitation issued by the Government of the United States to send delegates to participate at a conference, the object of which shall be to establish methods whereby stipulations contained in former Central American treaties and agreements may be rendered effective; other reforms deemed necessary may be added, binding the nations of Central America in the form which their actual necessity demands and developing every effort which would make closer such a bond in the future.

There has existed a General Treaty of Peace and Amity, signed December 20, 1907; furthermore, a Central American Court of Justice, created in accordance with Article 1 of said treaty, the object of which was to solve all problems which may come up for adjustment between the nations of Central America.

It is the practice of all civilized countries to submit many of their controversies to arbitration, but they usually exclude such questions which, in their opinion, affect the dignity or sovereignty of one or the other of the parties concerned. The Central American Court of Justice, believing itself an arbitral tribunal, and going perhaps beyond its fixed limits, was established with the object of solving all international questions affecting each and every one of the republics constituting Central America, without any exception.

The special convention which enumerated the bases of organization of the Central American Court of Justice was rejected as such, and differences of opinion naturally arose as to whether the General Treaty of Peace

and Amity was in force. This treaty in its first article practically established the court and constituted it an arbiter in all international questions, of whatever nature, affecting Central America.

Recently the governments of Central America, convinced of the necessity of preserving a judicious method for regulating their general relations, have been content to sink their differences of opinion, and in one form or another certain governments have made plain that their position was that the treaty of 1907 was in force and other governments indicated that it should be considered in force henceforth. Thus, the only remaining problem of importance was how to give it force in the most effective form, and furthermore to accede to the other measures which the necessities and aspirations of the Central American countries demand at this historic moment. Thus, the invitation of the Government of the United States was highly opportune, and I take great pleasure in stating that this friendly act has aroused sincere gratitude on the part of the Government of El Salvador. The appointment of His Excellency the Secretary of State and of the Honorable Mr. Welles, ex-Chief of the Latin American Division of the Department of State, as delegates of the United States demonstrates that the co-operation of this government will serve to assure the undoubted success of this conference and will thereby receive our most sincere gratitude.

In expressing my hearty thanks for the friendly welcome that has been extended to the delegation of El Salvador by the Government of the United States, I likewise desire to extend my gratitude to the Honorable Governing Board of the Pan American Union, as well as to the Director General of this Institution, for his courtesy in offering us the use of this building during the forthcoming sessions and also for his co-operation in the inauguration of the conference. In conclusion, I desire most cordially to welcome the delegates of the United States Government to our sessions and to extend the greetings of the delegation of El Salvador to the members of the other Central American delegations.

HONDURAS

Remarks of Senor Dr. Don Alberto Uoles, Chief of the Honduran Delegation

His Excellency the Secretary of State, Distinguished Delegates, Gentlemen:

The Delegation of Honduras to the Central American Conference, which assembly His Excellency the Secretary of State of the United States of America, with the unanimous approval of the governments of the five republics of Central America, has just inaugurated as Honorary President, desires to express the cordial thanks of its delegates as a whole for the courteous greeting of welcome which that distinguished gentleman has just addressed to the assembled delegates. The latter are today met in this city of Washington, in the palace of the Pan American Union, at the invitation of His Excellency the President of the United States, in order to assure for all the countries concerned, not alone the benefits of peace and progress, but also the blessings of right and liberty, which are their most vital concern.